

Letter from Mary S. Garrett to Fred DeLand, October 19

Probably 1908 BELMONT AND MONUMENT AVENUES, PHILADELPHIA. Dear Mr. De Land:—

I have yours of October 17. I was not in Dr. Bell's class in Boston. My sister, Emma who founded all the pure oral work in Penna., was in Prof. Butterfield's class; he succeeded Dr. Bell as a teacher of Visible Speech in the then School of Oratory in Boston. My sister is no longer living Another sister was also in his class, but she married shortly after. I took my training from my sister Emma. I do not know any of the other pupils in that class and am sorry I cannot help you on that point.

So far as Visible Speech is concerned, my sister and I consider the positions of the organs in making all the speech sounds, which we learned from Dr. Bell's method, invaluable. If the Visible Speech symbols were in universal use, they would be much better 2 than the English alphabet with its many faults, but as they are not, we relinquished them in the beginning of our work because all our work with the deaf has been on the same lines as one trains normal children. Like hearing children are now taught reading, (reserving the alphabet until after they can read) so we do not teach our deaf children the names of letters until they can understand how different the names are from their power in words; nor do we teach them to read or write until after they can talk.

I am sending you under another cover one of the four remaining copies of our first report. The Principal's report is written by my sister who was then living. I am sure it contains some information which you will be glad to have. On pages 6 and 7 of the report you will find some information in regard to 3 my sister. She died in 1893 of nervous prostration caused by the hard struggle she had to establish the oral method in Penna. against the opposition which she met. I regret to have to ask you to return this report; as I said, this is only one of four which we have remaining out of an edition of 10,000. Keep it, however,

Library of Congress

until you are entirely through with it, no matter how long that is, as all I want is to get it back finally.

Yours sincerely, Mary S. Garrett October nineteenth.